

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A ceramics sintered body comprising boron nitride, titanium diboride, a calcium compound and titanium nitride and having a relative density of 92% or more, wherein the content of the calcium compound in terms of CaO is from 0.05 to 0.8% by weight, and a peak intensity by X-ray diffraction of the (200) plane derived from titanium nitride is from 0.06 to 0.15 relative to a peak intensity of the (002) plane of BN.

2. (Original) The ceramics sintered body according to claim 1, wherein a part or all of the titanium nitride exists in a grain boundary phase.

3. (Currently Amended) The ceramics sintered body according to claim 1 [[or 2]], further containing aluminum nitride.

4. (Currently Amended) The ceramics sintered body according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the boron nitride

crystal contained in the ceramics sintered body has a C-axis lattice constant of 6.675 angstroms or less, and the ceramics sintered body has an oxygen amount of from 1 to 2% by weight.

5. (Original) The ceramics sintered body according to claim 1, having a total content of boron nitride and titanium diboride of 95% or more by weight.

6. (Original) The ceramics sintered body according to claim 3, having a total content of boron nitride, titanium diboride and aluminum nitride of 95% or more by weight.

7. (Currently Amended) An exothermic body for metal vapor deposition which is constituted by the ceramics sintered body according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~.

8. (Original) A method for producing a ceramics sintered body comprising sintering a mixed raw material powder containing a titanium diboride powder, a boron nitride powder, a calcium-based sintering aid and optionally an aluminum nitride powder, in a non-oxidative atmosphere at a temperature of 1800 to 2100°C, wherein the boron nitride powder has a C-axis lattice constant of a boron nitride crystal of 6.690 angstroms or less, a cumulative average diameter of 4 to 20

μm, a BET specific surface area of 25 to 70 m²/g, and an oxygen amount of 1.0 to 2.5% by weight, and the mixed raw material powder contains a calcium-based sintering aid in an amount of from 0.09 to 0.8% by weight in terms of CaO.

9. (Original) The method for producing a ceramics sintered body according to claim 8, wherein the calcium-based sintering aid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of CaO, Ca(OH)₂, and CaCO₃.

10. (New) The ceramics sintered body according to claim 2, further containing aluminum nitride.

11. (New) The ceramics sintered body according to claim 2, wherein the boron nitride crystal contained in the ceramics sintered body has a C-axis lattice constant of 6.675 angstroms or less, and the ceramics sintered body has an oxygen amount of from 1 to 2% by weight.

12. (New) The ceramics sintered body according to claim 3, wherein the boron nitride crystal contained in the ceramics sintered body has a C-axis lattice constant of 6.675 angstroms or less, and the ceramics sintered body has an oxygen amount of from 1 to 2% by weight.